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Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 9

September 1996

BIG SKY KIDS Enjoy Day at Hebgen Lake

by Jan Lerum,
Public Affairs Officer,
Gallatin National Forest,
Bozeman, Montana

The Northern Region Centennial Mule Pack String spent time on July 25 with the Big Sky Kids at their annual get-together at Hebgen Lake.

Big Sky Kids is a group of young cancer patients and their families and friends who convene at the lake to visit and enjoy summer activities. After a week of assisting the Hebgen Lake RD, Gallatin NF, with several trail projects in the West Yellowstone area, the 8-mule pack train, guided by "mule skinnners" Bob Hoverson and Dave York from the Ninemile RD, Lolo NF, were an impressive sight as they demonstrated some of their skills at Rainbow Point Campground on the lake.

This was the fourth year the pack train was able to visit with the Big Sky Kids. It is always one of the highlights of the packers' year, according to Dave and Bob.

Bob explained the historic purpose of pack trains in the Forest Service, introduced each mule, and described the function of the gear each mule carried. Ron Naber and Claude Coffin, Hebgen Lake

RD recreation staff, then lead some of the kids on rides on Gracie the mule and Eagle the lead horse. The day at the lake was part of the week-long events scheduled for the kids. It was a real West Yellowstone community get-together. Entertainment was provided by the local small theater group. Forest Service smokejumpers from the West Yellowstone Interagency Air Center demonstrated some of their gear for the group.



RON NABER, Hebgen Lake RD, Gallatin NF, with one of the Big Sky Kids taking a ride on "Gracie" the mule.



BOB HOVERSON explains historic use of Forest Service pack trains to Big Sky Kids at Rainbow Point Campground, Hebgen Lake RD, Gallatin NF.



DAVE YORK leads the Northern Region's Centennial Pack Train in a demonstration for the Big Sky Kids.

Photos by Jan Larum.

Porcupine Project Shows Partnerships Make A Difference



by Jan Lerum,
Public Affairs Officer,
Gallatin National Forest,
Bozeman, Montana

The Porcupine Project, a land purchase on the Gallatin NF, proved that partnerships do make a difference, according to Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas who spoke at the July 20th celebration of the completion of the Porcupine land acquisition.

The Chief's long time connection with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), a key partner in the acquisition, was noted by Bob Munson, president of the RMEF, and Master of Ceremony at the dedication. Together the project partners were able to acquire over 8,100 acres of wildlife habitat in the Gallatin Canyon.

The RMEF, Forest Service, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks invested more than \$16.4 million to acquire private inholdings in the Porcupine drainage.

It was almost old home week for the Chief who knew many of the



KURT ALT, (left) Montana Department of Fish, Game & Wildlife, and **Bob Dennee**, Gallatin NF staff officer for Lands, Lands Appraisals, Surveying, were recognized for their role in the completion of the Porcupine land acquisition.



JACK WARD THOMAS speaking at the celebration of the completion of the Porcupine land acquisition.

participants in the dedication ceremony from various times in his 40 years of Federal service.

The Chief gave the framed photograph of the Porcupine drainage he received from RMEF in honor of his support for the project to Bob Gibson, former Gallatin National Forest (GNF) Supervisor. Gibson is a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation board member, and one of the "grandfathers of the Porcupine" partnership, according to Kris Dunn, Gallatin County Commissioner, who also spoke at the dedication ceremony.

During the ceremony, Bob Dennee, GNF lands staff, and many other Forest Service employees and partners were recognized for their efforts to complete the land acquisition.

The Gallatin Range Consolidation and Preservation Act, signed by President Clinton in 1993, provides for Federal acquisition and exchange of Big Sky



FOREST SERVICE CHIEF JACK WARD THOMAS on a trail ride in the Porcupine drainage, Gallatin NF. Photo by Kirk Horn

Lumber inholdings within the Gallatin National Forest. The Porcupine acquisition marked an important milestone in completing the provisions of the act.

The Porcupine drainage provides winter range for about 1,500 elk, year round habitat for a native population of big horn sheep, essential habitat for grizzly bear, and high quality winter range for moose.



CHIEF THOMAS (left), **Bob Gibson** (center), retired Gallatin NF supervisor, and **Bob Munson**, president of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Pictures at the Porcupine ceremony were taken by Bill Brewster, HIGH COUNTRY INDEPENDENT PRESS, Belgrade, Montana.



CFC

September 30 - November 1

The Combined Federal Campaign gets underway September 30 and continues through November 1st. The Missoula and Ravalli counties' 1996 CFC goal is \$50,000. The Forest Service share is \$40,000. The CFC is the only authorized charitable fund-raising drive in the Federal workplace. Communities in these two counties have many needs and the Forest Service wants to keep Western Montana one of the "last best places". Please continue the Forest Service tradition with a generous contribution to the CFC. The 1996 theme is "Change Lives & Share the Spirit!"

If you have questions, telephone Jane Haker, 1996 Forest Service Keyworker, Missoula Aerial Fire Depot. (406) 3294905.

Associate Chief

David G. Unger

spoke to employees at a RO "Family Meeting" in the Missoula Federal Building, Tuesday, July 20, while in Missoula as part of the annual mid-year Northern Region evaluation.

National Forest Service Museum Exhibit Starts September 29; Lectures October 3-10-17-24



*by Gary G. Brown, President,
National Forest Service Museum
Board of Directors, Missoula, MT*

The National Forest Service Museum (NFSM) of Missoula is planning a professionally-done exhibit of FS history, which will open to the public at 1:00 p.m., Sunday afternoon, September 29, 1996, at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula (access from South Ave., opposite Big Sky High School).

The exhibit, which will be in place for 12 months, will feature the early history of the Forest Service (FS) and additional details on the major activities of the FS: research, cooperative forestry, and the more widely-known National Forest System. A small section of the exhibit will describe how the proposed National Forest Service Museum will gather, store, interpret and display the entire national history of the FS in a first-class museum, to be located west of the Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory near the Missoula International Airport. In addition to the exhibit, the NFSM Board of Directors is offering additional events to enrich and expand public interest in both the exhibit and the NFSM mission. FS employee Gary Hines (now assigned to the former Pinchot home at Grey Towers (Milford, PA) is nationally known for his stage portrayal of the first FS Chief, Gifford Pinchot. Hines will present this excellent portrayal on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, Sept. 28, 1996 at the Front Street Theater, Missoula. Both events are free and open to the public. As a source of additional

insight into the various parts of FS history to be shown in the museum exhibit, followup lectures by noteworthy speakers are planned:

Thursday, Oct. 3: Hal Salwasser, R-1 Regional Forester. "History of National Forest System."

Thursday, Oct. 10: Joan Comanor, Deputy Chief, State & Private Forester. "History of Cooperative Forestry."

Thursday, Oct. 17: Jerry SESCO, Deputy Chief, Research. "History of Forest Service Research."

These three lectures will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Historical Museum of Fort Missoula. These are free and open to the public.

Thursday, Oct. 24: Jack Ward Thomas, Chief of the Forest Service. "How Forest Service Pieces Fit Together."

Chief Thomas' lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Boone & Crockett National Headquarters (old Milwaukee Depot.), Missoula. This event is free and open to the public.

With all these events, we hope to increase and enrich public awareness of our NFSM cause, and increase both public and corporate support. FS employees and their families are especially welcome to our exhibit and the related events. We hope you, too, can learn from and enjoy our offerings. For further information, contact NFSM at P.O. Box 2772, Missoula, MT 59806-2772.

Historic Bull River Guard Station, Cabinet Ranger District, Kootenai NF

Outdoor education, ranging from day hikes, youth camps, float trips to lectures and demonstrations on composting, archaeology, landscaping and recycling dead trees, are being conducted at the historic Bull River Guard Station, near Noxon, MT.

Programs are sponsored by the Cabinet Resource Group and the Forest Service's Cabinet Ranger Station at Trout Creek, MT.

The Bull River Guard Station was the first guard station built on the Cabinet National Forest (now parts of the Kaniksu National

Forest in Idaho and the Cabinet RD, Kootenai NF). The guard station was built by Granville "Granny" Gordon in 1908. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Activities in August included a float trip on the Bull River, an "over-the-hill" gang (people over 60) half-day excursion, a hike to Engle Peak/Engle Lake, an archaeology exploration of the area's history, and a presentation on the history and life of elk.

September programs include a demonstration of the advantages of using native plants



BULL RIVER GUARD STATION,
Kootenai National Forest.

Photo by Diana Enright

in backyard landscaping and a discussion of the way nature recycles dead trees.

The programs and activities are on Saturdays. For more details about the nature program activities, telephone Diana Enright at the Cabinet Ranger Station: (406) 827-3533 or (406) 847-2462.

Tree Restoration

IPNF Employees Plant Trees In Park In Post Falls, Idaho

by Darrell Frogness, Forester, Ecosystem Team,
Idaho Panhandle NFs, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

A violent storm in 1995 took out many of the trees in Q'emlin city park in Post Falls, Idaho.

Post Falls' forestry "Czar," Forest Service retiree Del Jaquish, secured a grant, through the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program, to provide for restoring the trees. One of the grant requirements was that Forest Service employees participate as volunteers in the planting project.

More than 30 red oak, bass wood and maple trees were planted in April. Jaquish secured a fork lift for use in moving and placing the large, 30-foot trees. They weighed more than 500 pounds each.

Employee volunteers on the project included Art Zack, Susan and Anthony Matthews and family, Jane Houghton, John Neirincx, Bridget Johnson and family, Bob Kasun, Dorothy and



FOREST SERVICE VOLUNTEERS
combine their efforts in planting one of 30 trees in the Post Falls park. Left to right: Darrell Frogness, Gary Rahm and Bob Kasun.

Photos by Grady Myers.



TONY TALBOT selected one of the modern, lightweight wheelbarrows to work as a volunteer tree planter on the Saturday morning park restoration project.

Mike Knodel, Grady Myers and son, Rob Spafford, Gary Rahm and daughter Pauline Rahm, Tony Talbot, Mary Lynn Vore and a host of others volunteers planted trees that Saturday morning in the park-restoration project.



BEARGRASS IN BLOOM, Skitwish Ridge, on the south side of Skitwish Mountain, Panhandle NFs.

Photo by Betty Snyder.

Beargrass is in high demand for floral arrangements. Most of it is exported to Europe and the Far East.

The first beargrass harvest permits were issued on the Idaho Panhandle NFs in 1992. At that time, harvesting was focused along the Lake Pend Oreille/Coeur d'Alene River Divide. Those harvesting mushrooms in the area of the Kilroy Bay Fire discovered a resource they didn't know existed. The majority of those harvesting beargrass are of Laotian, Vietnamese and Cambodian descent.

The Forest had not considered beargrass a harvestable resource in northern Idaho. We lacked experience in issuing or administering permits for harvesting beargrass. The first year, we struggled, issuing 2400-8 "green-slip" permits and charging by the pound.

We were amazed by the demand and frustrated by the communication barrier. Most of the permittees did not speak English or were not able to speak English fluently enough to be able to communicate where they were planning to harvest or camp.

After contacting people in R-6 (Pacific Northwest Region) who had been selling beargrass for several years, we adopted their system of charging by the day instead of by the pound. The Sandpoint and Fernan districts started issuing this style permit in 1993 and 1994. The Wallace district followed suit in 1995. Few permits

were sold on other districts.

Beargrass sale receipts on the Fernan Ranger District exceeded those for personal use firewood in 1994 and 1995.

Communicating with beargrass permittees is a persistent challenge. It is important that the harvesters understand and follow the provisions of the permits. Managing industrial camping has been very difficult.

Utilizing a language translating service, we had our mushroom and beargrass permits translated into Spanish, Cambodian, Vietnamese and Laotian. We're also using a series of questions and instructions in the first three languages from R-6. These are helping improve our communications with the permittees.

The Panhandle NFs are now assessing the impact to the beargrass plants. Harvesting is selective. Generally, less than a quarter of the plant is removed during harvesting and recovery is expected within 3 to 4 years. At present the use seems to be self-regulating. The harvesters seem to select only the longest grass leaves and once these are removed, they seek out other areas to harvest. The Fernan RD had a flurry of activity early this year, before the snow was off the high elevation roads. However, we have sold very few permits

Beargrass Permits Are Multilingual

By Jim Wallace, Operations Team, Fernan RD, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Quý vị đang nhặt nấm hay "beargrass" phải không?
ARE YOU PICKING MUSHROOMS OR BEARGRASS?
From the question-answer instructions printed in Vietnamese for beargrass permittees.



BUNDLES OF BEARGRASS.

Photo by Jim Wallace

since June. Sales on the Sandpoint and Wallace RDs are still holding steady.

There does not seem to be any adverse impacts that decrease flowering. No plant mortality has been observed. Harvesters only pick from plants growing in the shade where the plants are protected from the sun. Beargrass plants growing in open areas tend to have lighter foliage with streaks of yellow, rather than the dark green foliage on plants growing in the shade. Most of the dramatic flowering is in open areas.

A major concern has been debris and sanitation at the campsites. Most of the permittees have done a good job.

Kazakhstan Forestry Officials

Visit Mills, RO, Laboratories, Job Corps, Forests, University

Four Kazakhstan forestry officials spent six days in western Montana in July visiting Federal and State forestry officials and scientists, wood products industry officials and faculty members at the University of Montana School of Forestry.

The Forest Service's Northern Region hosted the Montana phase of the visit. It was the third phase of an international information exchange, designed to assist Kazakhstan officials in building and restructuring forestry services under a free market system. The trip was funded by the Cochran Fellowship Program (USDA Foreign Agriculture Service, International Cooperation & Development) and the Volunteers in Overseas Cooperatives Assistance (VOAC).

R-1 retiree Don Stevenson, Missoula, planned the visit and organized their schedule in western Montana.

Their schedule included visits with the Regional Forester and members of his staff; University of Montana School of Forestry and Lubrecht Experimental Forest; Montana State Forester; Blue Mountain area, Lolo NF; Intermountain Station's Forestry

Sciences Laboratory and Fire Laboratory in Missoula; Trapper Creek Job Corps Center; Bitterroot National Forest; Stevensville Ranger District; home construction site; log home manufacturing facility; Lick Creek Experimental Forest; Stimson mill and plywood plant in Bonner, MT.; and the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot.

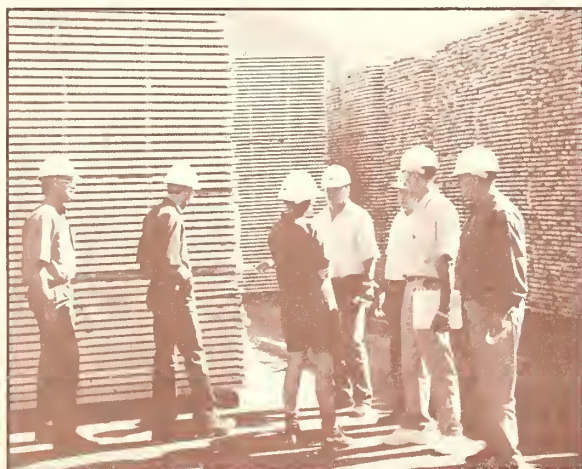
After leaving Missoula on July 27, the Kazakhstan officials spent a week in North Carolina and met with the Chief of the Forest Service before returning to Almaty, Kazakhstan, in August.



FOUR KAZAKHSTAN FORESTRY OFFICIALS and their interpreter at the RO with Don Stevenson, R-1 retiree (extreme right) and William W. Boettcher (third from left), assistant director R-1 Forest & Rangeland Management.



At tree nursery at Montana State Forester's headquarters, Missoula.



Kazakhstan visitors toured the Intermountain Station's Fire Research Laboratory combustion chamber and wind tunnel.

At Stimson lumberyard, Bonner, MT.





MEMBERS OF THE CLEARWATER ROAD AND TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE received a national award for their volunteer efforts at Fish Lake on the North Fork RD. Back row, L to R: Gary Carlin, vice-chairman of the committee; Clearwater County Commissioners Bud Bonner, Earl Pickett, Jim Wilson; District Resource Assistant Duane Annis. Presenting the award to committee chairman Wendell Stark (L) is District Ranger Art Bourassa.

Photo by Kathy Thompson

Clearwater Road & Trail Committee Recognized For Volunteer Work Rehabilitating Fish Lake Area

by Kathy Thompson, Information Assistant,
Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, ID

Volunteers on the project worked hard to help visitors to Fish Lake become aware of the fragile high alpine environment and the importance of treating it with care. They plan to continue to work each year to educate users and maintain the lake shore and the trail to Fish Lake.

Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas, Washington, D.C., said, in a letter that accompanied the award: "Your group has done an outstanding job recruiting and coordinating a volunteer work force to work cooperatively with the Forest Service, educating users and generating a spirit of partnership and cooperation between the public and the Forest Service for future use and management of the Fish Lake area." He added, "I applaud your efforts and encourage their continuation."

The Clearwater Road and Trail Committee sponsored the rehabilitation project, and members of the Clearwater Resource Coalition worked cooperatively to make it a success.

Many people not associated with either organization volunteered their time and talents. Volunteers came from three states to help; they wanted to see the remote alpine lake campsites and meadows cleaned up and protected from overuse.

The rehabilitation work included trail building and repair; installation of fire rings, stock hitch rails and toilets; and hauling 30,000 pounds of construction supplies six miles on ATVs (all terrain vehicles).

Volunteers from the Clearwater Road and Trail Committee were presented an award recently for four years of rehabilitation work at Fish Lake, North Fork RD, Clearwater NF. The alpine lake is on the west edge of the Bitterroot Divide, 100 miles northeast of Orofino.

District Ranger Art Bourassa and Resource Assistant Duane Annis presented a plaque to Wendell Stark, chairman of the committee, and Gary Carlin, vice-chairman. Also attending the award presentation were Clearwater County Commissioners Jim Wilson, Bud Bonner and Earl Pickett.

Recognition By Chief

Mike Ryan, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, Receives "Windows on the Past" Award



MIKE RYAN at Monument Ridge "Passport In Time" prehistoric site.

Photo by Jim Hughes.

Beaverhead NF Archeologist Mike Ryan is the 1996 recipient of the Chief's "Windows on the Past Award" for outstanding heritage education and public service.

The award recognizes Ryan's exceptional work with the "Passport In Time" (PIT) volunteer program at the Monument Ridge prehistoric site and at the historic Canyon Creek charcoal kilns.

His greatest success is blending the interpretation of complex historical and archeological events with challenging and

existing field projects. One enthusiastic PIT volunteer said "Mike Ryan is a natural born teacher who makes it easy to share his excitement and understanding of history and archeology." The award was presented by Regional Archeologist Mike Beckes July 24 at a gathering of volunteers participating in the "Footsteps of Lewis & Clark" PIT project on the Wisdom Ranger District, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.

St Regis - Paradise

The River, The People, The Land

by James E. Soular,
Civil Engineering Technician,
Superior (MT) RD, Lolo, NF



ONE OF FOUR INTERPRETIVE SITES along the Clark Fork River on the St. Regis-Paradise Scenic Byway. Photo by James Soular.

The 30-mile St. Regis-Paradise Scenic Byway (Montana Highway No. 135) offers the motoring public outstanding scenery and significant heritage sites.

The byway wends its way alongside the Clark Fork River for twenty-two miles, a feature that contributed to the byway's theme: The River, The People, The Land. Eighteen miles of the route parallels a segment of the Clark Fork River currently under study for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The byway was officially designated in September 1992. It was also designated a scenic byway by the American Automobile Association (AAA) in 1993 and will be highlighted on AAA maps available to over 30 million members.

A meandering trail in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the byway today is a modern, two-lane highway, capable of supporting most motorized vehicles, including motor homes. The scenic route takes motorists through varying terrain, from spacious, rolling flats to steep canyon walls where it winds through the Coeur d'Alene Mountains.

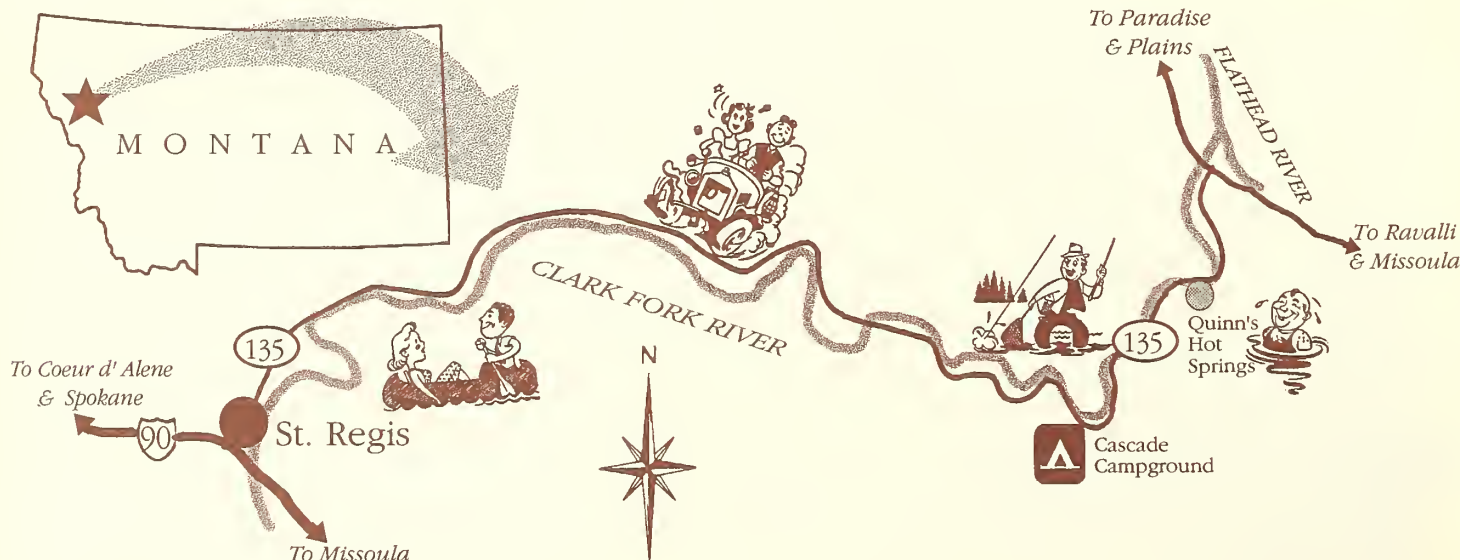
Wildlife viewing, from many turnouts along the route, includes white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep. You can also see bald eagles periodically, especially during the fall and winter months. Several access points to the river are available, providing opportunities for fishing and boating. The Clark Fork is home to a wide variety of fish, including rainbow trout, west slope cutthroat, eastern brook trout, bull trout, and the longnose sucker.

The byway has long been considered an alternate route for travelers, on Interstate 90, whose destination is Flathead Lake or Glacier National Park. It also serves as a route to the National Bison Range. Traveling Montana 200 and the byway provides an increasingly popular recreational travel loop for eastern Washington and northern Idaho residents, and many others in the region.

Along the route there is one Forest Service campground, Cascade Campground. It includes a self-guided nature trail, designated a National Recreation Trail. Also, there are several dispersed (undeveloped) camping sites along the byway. Natural hot springs, 20 miles west of St. Regis, are the setting for a privately owned, developed campground and resort, Quinn's Hot Springs, established in 1899.

To reach the byway, travel Interstate 90 to the town of St. Regis, approximately 60 miles west of Missoula. Montana Highway 135 begins just off the interstate, in St. Regis.

Information about the byway can be obtained at the Superior Ranger District (406) 822-4233 in Superior or the Plains Ranger District (406) 826-3821 in Plains.





WILDERNESS TRAINING PARTICIPANTS were confronted with some of the issues recreationists and backcountry rangers see every day, such as hanging food out of the reach of bears.

There is something special that happens at the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center each year in the first week in June.

Land management folks escape the daily battle of their jobs and travel to the Ninemile RD to discuss such issues as

- "What is legally allowed and not allowed in wildernesses?"
- "How do we protect those special wilderness values?"
- "How does wilderness fit into ecosystem management?"

The 7th annual National Wilderness Management Training for Line Officers was hosted in June at the Carhart Training Center, Ninemile RD, Lolo NF, Huson, MT. Fifty-eight line officers from around the country and from all four land management agencies attended the eight-day session. Also in attendance was an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who manages wilderness air space and is a liaison to the Federal Aviation Administration. As in past sessions, the Ninemile RD and the Lolo NF helped support the training operation with staff and facilities.

Representatives from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service explored a number of topics including their personal wilderness values, the Wilderness Act, principles of wilderness management, political, cultural and social trends, research, fire, fish, wildlife, grazing, education, and air quality.

Wilderness Management Training Challenging, Memorable

by Bill West, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service,
Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center, Ninemile RD, Lolo NF.



PRIMITIVE SKILLS: There was not time for participants to learn primitive skills yet they were exposed to some of the tools.

Past sessions have received high marks from participants and this was no exception. The weather was absolutely perfect for the entire week, including the two-day field trip that started the training. Many participants stayed up late to interact with line officers from other agencies. This was the first year the course reflected full interagency involvement in participants, teaching cadre, wilderness rangers and speakers. The good weather, challenging field trip, course work and interaction made for an especially memorable session.

Vast acreages of public land were represented by folks who have titles such as State Director of the Bureau of Land Management for Idaho, superintendents of Mount Rainier and Katmai National Parks, refuge managers of Arctic and Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuges, deputy forest supervisor of the National Forests in Texas,



ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING: Leave no trace, overuse of popular camp sites were but two of the many field trip discussion topics.

and forest supervisors of the Wasatch and Chattahoochee National Forests.

The subject of wilderness brought the participants together and the agency interaction created a chemistry that held the attention of all of the participants. Several comments on the course evaluation forms read "best training in my career." By the end of the week, public lands of this country were a little bit better off!

From Around the Region.....



Over \$86,000 for Nez Perce NF

Riggins & Elk City Get Community Grants

During the past five years (1992-1996), more than \$240,000 in Rural Community Assistance (RCA) grant money has been awarded to local communities through the Nez Perce National Forest.

The towns of Riggins and Elk City received RCA grants this year. The Federal cost-share grant money is available through the Forest Service's RCA program. Communities use the funds to plan and implement projects and to establish community action teams.

The City of Riggins will receive \$37,576 for park restroom construction at the Cleo Patterson Memorial Park. The project is a partnership effort of the City, Chamber of

Commerce, and local outfitters and guides.

These organizations have committed their funds and time to completion of the park restroom project. They recognize that certain facilities are required to accommodate the tourist industry. If adequate restroom facilities are not provided, the river and riverbank would be polluted. In addition to providing a service for travelers and recreationists, the project will protect the fragile river corridor environment.

The Elk City Area Alliance will receive \$48,555 for Phase 2 of the Intermountain Woodnet. This project will provide a network of rural, value-added forest products manufacturers in Idaho and Montana with

*by Laura Smith, Public Affairs,
Nez Perce NF, Grangeville, Idaho.*

the capacity to implement business development strategies identified and prioritized recently by Woodnet. Priorities include cooperative marketing activities, market research, product development, cooperative manufacturing, business and technology education, networking and communications, and support services.

Intermountain Woodnet efforts, begun during Phase I in 1994-95, are showing tangible results. This year's grant will finance work toward organizational self-sufficiency.

RURAL COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

funding has been approved for 17 community projects in R-1 under the Food, Agriculture, Conservation & Trade Act of 1990 (the 'Farm Bill'). R-1 National Forests submitted 57 proposals for 57 communities, counties, and tribes to develop community action plans or to implement projects. Communities requested \$1.2 million in assistance. The Forest Service allocated a total of \$437,658 for the 17 approved projects.

WEARING OF "FIRE 21" PIN

on Forest Service uniform approved, encouraged by Chief. Wearing the pin, the Chief said, shows a willingness to 'take responsibility' for safe and prudent use of fire in the management of natural resources. 'We are each responsible for wildland fire safety as well as commitment to protection, restoration and sustainability of fire-adapted ecosystems,' Chief Thomas said. He explained that wearing the pin is "your declaration of personal commitment to fire in the 21st century." The pin is to be worn on the right lapel or collar or centered just above or below the nameplate.

STEVENSVILLE (MT) DISTRICT

RANGER LESLIE WELDON has accepted a promotion to the Northeast Area State & Private Forestry organization of the Forest Service. Weldon reported in August to the new post at Aberdeen, MD, where she will serve as liaison to the Department of Army Environmental Center. She had served as district ranger at Stevensville since October of 1992.

SPECIAL ACCESS AREA FOR DISABLED HUNTERS

will be available this fall in the Bare Cone drainage (off Forest Roads No. 732 & 730, just beyond the turnoff to Rombo campground off the West Fork Road). To hunt in the drainage, a disabled hunter must bring a Montana conservation license stamped with a "permit to hunt from a motor vehicle" to the West Fork Ranger Station, Darby, MT. Qualified hunters will be given a permit that allows motorized access behind the locked gate.

BURNING PROPOSED FOR 850 ACRES

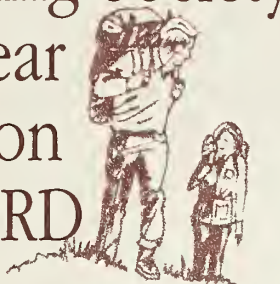
of grass and trees in the Ham Gulch area on the Philipsburg (MT) RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF, eight miles north of Philipsburg. The burning is scheduled for next spring to burn trees and grasslands to help restore natural plant communities and keep Douglas fir from taking over open parks.

When is it Deer Lodge? Deerlodge?

DEER LODGE: 1. The county seat of Powell County, Montana, and location of the Forest Service ranger station bearing the same name. 2. A county northwest of Butte, Montana, whose county seat is the city of Anaconda. 3. A valley lying in Deer Lodge and Powell counties, Montana, where one source says a salt lick drew numbers of deer, making hunting easy for sportsmen.

DEERLODGE: 1. A National Forest in Southwest Montana with a gross acreage of 1,358,183 acres, proclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt on July 1, 1908. The Forest contains four districts: Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Butte, and Philipsburg. The Forest is now combined with the Beaverhead NF as the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.

American Hiking Society Volunteers Clear Popular Trail on Hebgen Lake RD



by Jan Lerum, Public Affairs Officer,
Gallatin National Forest, Bozeman, Montana

Nine volunteers from the American Hiking Society (AHS) spent a hot and dusty week on the Hebgen Lake RD, Gallatin NF, "giving something back to the National Forests".

The volunteers, a group of active, mostly middle-aged AHS members from New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, and California, rebuilt a section of the Cabin Creek Trail made impassable by a rock slide. They removed lots of rock talus from the trail and installed rock crib retaining walls to hold the trail in place.

It took two days to safely remove a large tree that was leaning across the trail. Once down, it was a tribute to their perseverance. John Fitchner, the Ranger District's trails crew leader, worked with the volunteers during their week on the Forest.

The group, according to Larry Kocher, a retired school teacher from California, "meshed early in our week together and was an extremely congenial group."

Most were repeat volunteers with the AHS's Volunteer Vacations. For team coordinator Richard Greve, it was his 12th work trip on a National Forest. Some members knew each other from previous trips. The group's cooperative spirit was apparent. They camped in the adjacent Cabin Creek campground, sharing cooking and cleanup duties.

This was the first AHS volunteer work trip on the Gallatin NF. It was the result of creative sleuthing by Ron Naber of the Ranger District's recreation staff. After coming across an AHS newsletter that mentioned work trips on National Forests, Ron contacted AHS Society. By early this year the details had been worked out and the Hebgen Lake RD work trip was set.

The Cabin Creek volunteers were: Sharon and Ed Benson, Kate Bolt, Richard Greve, Harry Hance, Jan Jefferson, Larry Kocher, and Joe Schute. Shirley Hern of AHS was also a crew member.

The benefits of the volunteer effort goes beyond their actual labor involved in opening the popular trail, according to District Ranger Stan Benes. Stan sees these group members as "ambassadors of the National Forests" when they return home.

The close-out barbecue for the volunteers Friday night at the Ranger Station was a way to thank the AHS group for their efforts and invite them back next year!

The policy of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or political affiliation. Persons believing they have been discriminated against in any Forest Service related activity should write to:
Chief, Forest Service, USDA,
P.O. Box 96090,
Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

MICKELSON, GINA R., resource clerk, Philipsburg RD, promotion

Resignations

ABBOTT, DARWIN L., forestry technician, Philipsburg RD, resignation

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

HOTALEN, TOM, training instructor, Anaconda JCC, promoted to maintenance work leader

LAWS, RORY, lead forestry technician, IPNF's, promoted to spvry forestry technician, Darby RD

STANICH, CHARLES, forestry technician, SO, temporary promotion to FMO

Reassignments

BERRY, DOLORES, purchasing agent, Custer NF, reassigned to business management assistant, Darby RD

New Employees

BORROWMAN, JOHN, scsep, Anaconda JCC

BOWDEN, NELSON, cook, Anaconda JCC, career-conditional appointment

KOPEL, DAVID, cook, Anaconda JCC, career-conditional appointment

Resignations & Retirements

BLEVINS, SALLY, forestry technician, West Fork RD, resignation

CROSS, MARCIA, archeologist, SO, resignation

PEDERSON, ROBIN, forestry technician, West Fork RD, resignation

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

HILLIARD, DENNIS M., supervisory rangeland management specialist, Medora RD, reassignment, from Delta RD, National Forests in Mississippi

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

DRINVILLE, MAUREEN, resource clerk, SO, promotion

HENDRICKSON, SHANE, fishery biologist, Helena RD, promotion

GEORGIO, KARYL, financial manager, SO to Lassen NF, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

TEEGARDEN, AMY, community outreach & assistant coordinator, SO, reassignment

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST

New Employees

HARRISON, DAVID, Boise NF, conversion to career conditional appointment, St. Joe RD

Reassignments & Transfers

LIEBSCHER, THOMAS, State of Alaska, forester, reassignment, forester, SO

Retirements

SMITH, DONALD, retirement, supervisory forester, St. Maries RD

Resignations

DIETZ, JIM, resignation, forestry technician, Priest Lake RD

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

FANSLER, MARY, accounting technician, SO, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

KOLLMAYER, JANE, district ranger, Fortine RD, reassignment to Flathead NF

MONNIG, EDWARD, ecologist, RO, reassignment to district ranger, Fortine RD

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

TIMCHAK, LARRY, district ranger, Judith RD to BLM, Billings, promotion

In Memoriam

Matt Larson, 19, Plains, Montana, died June 16. A native of Miles City, he attended school in Plains and graduated from Plains High School in 1995. Larson attended Dickinson State University. He worked for the Forest Service.

Nez Perce NF Health, Safety, Wellness Support People Honored

by Laura Smith, Public Affairs,
Nez Perce NF, Grangeville, Idaho

Reinvigorating a National Forest's Health, Safety & Wellness (HSW) Program involves a team effort in clarifying standards, and insuring proper direction and training.

The Nez Perce NF recently hosted an informal HSW meeting at the Clearwater Ranger District, Grangeville, Idaho, with Regional and other HSW personnel to gain insights on strengthening the program. The meeting provided an opportunity for recognizing the contributions support personnel have given to revitalizing the HSW program.

Coy Jemmett, Nez Perce NF Supervisor, and George Regas, Forest HSW Program Leader, awarded Certificates of Appreciation to six members of the support group from the Regional Office and other National Forests. The Certificates were presented in recognition of "technical knowledge and commitment to health, safety, and wellness that significantly contributes to providing a culture and environment for the well being of our employees, cooperators, and visitors."



PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION at Clearwater Ranger District, Grangeville, Idaho, Nez Perce NF: (left to right) Nez Perce NF Supervisor Coy Jemmett; Ann Baker, RO Safety & Health Officer; Ken Kaufman, safety technician, Idaho Panhandle NFs, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; George Regas, Health Safety & Wellness director, Nez Perce NF SO; Doug Shjeflo, R-1 Occupational Workers Compensation Program Specialist, Flathead NF, Kallispell, MT.; and Dave Diezger, mechanical engineer, RO Engineering. (Not pictured: Dan Dolata, Safety & Health Specialist, Boise National Forest.) Photo by Laura Smith.

To all NRN readers:

Your friends here at the NRN thought we'd add some historic trivia to the Northern Region News.

See if you can identify the location and general date of the photo(s) used for the graphic background in the mailing address section of your copy. (Below)

Answers will be printed in next month's issue.

Have fun...

Carol E. Jones
Graphic designer for the NRN

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